



Town of Brookline

Massachusetts

Department of Public Works

Engineering & Transportation Division

TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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May 22, 2013

Town Meeting Members

Town of Brookline, MA

Dear Town Meeting Members,

Today, trains filled with up to 260 MBTA customers must wait as six (6) brand-new signals give right-of-way to private vehicles, slowing MBTA service, frustrating passengers, and diminishing the transit riding experience. Brookline residents and businesses appreciate and depend on the C Line and other Green Line branches for essential mobility in our dense urban neighborhoods. Since 2008 Transportation Board members and Town staff have expressed our Town's desire to work collaboratively with the MBTA to address unnecessary delays to help make the service function as intended. Finally the current management team of the MBTA is responsive to these types of service improvements and is currently taking steps to make it feasible for the Town to implement a Transit Signal Prioritization (TSP) program along the C Line by 2017.

As outlined in the expanded explanation, TSP is a tool that improves the ability of transit vehicles and automobiles to safely and effectively share limited roadway space. The technology has proven effective in reducing transit delays by up to 40% and improving travel times by up to 20% in numerous US and European communities. According to the most recent available data the MBTA C-Line serves over 14,000 riders per day, with over 35% of the commuters living along the Beacon Street corridor using public transit as their primary form of transportation. By implementing a TSP program the Town has the ability to make real strides toward our collective goals of improving alternative modes of transportation, reducing congestion on our roadways, and improving our local air quality and our overall quality of life.

Article 22 is a resolution that simply asks Town Meeting to direct the Department of Public Works to include funds in their FY 2015 CIP budget to pay for the necessary study to aid the Town in making an educated decision on the costs and benefits of a TSP along the C-Line. While it does not allocate funds, it expresses Town Meeting's desire to have staff take the next step in this important initiative and the Transportation Board, by a unanimous vote, requests that Town Meeting support Warrant Article 22 as presented by the original petitioners.

Warmest Regards,

Joshua Safer, Chairman

Brookline Transportation Board